

CHERYL HAZELTINE and BARRY LOVELACE. 1999. **The New Central Texas Gardener.** (ISBN 0-89096-871-3, pbk.). Texas A&M University Press, College Station, TX 77843-4354, U.S.A. (409-845-1436, 409-847-8752 fax). \$24.95 hbk., \$14.95 pbk. 204 pp., 4 pp. color plates, b/w illustrations.

This "basic gardening text for Central Texans," is a slightly updated version of the 1980 publication by Hazeltine and Joan Filvaroff, entitled *The Central Texas Gardener*. The authors' stated purpose in this new edition is "to provide new gardeners and gardeners new to Central Texas information and advice about landscaping design for function and esthetic appeal; wise plant selection; and garden practices that work."

As in the 1980 book, Hazeltine and Lovelace provide information on plants suited to the growing conditions of this area. A new feature of *The New Central Texas Gardener* is a chapter on "Tools of the Trade," which includes brief descriptions of garden equipment and information sources—books, magazines, and internet sites. In addition, xerigraphy and creating special gardens and ponds are briefly described and discussed. Illustrative material includes maps, ink drawings of plants by Kate Bergquist, and an 8-page section of color photographs. A month-by-month calendar for planting concludes the book.

Although advertised for "amateur and seasoned gardeners," the latter will find it somewhat elemental, while those familiar with the earlier edition and with recent central Texas gardening literature will discover little new information.—*Joan H. Swaim.*

ROBERT W. KIGER, CHARLOTTE A. TANCIN, and GAVIN D.R. BRIDSON. 1999. **Index to Scientific Names of Organisms Cited in the Linnaean Dissertations Together With a Synoptic Bibliography of the Dissertations and a Concordance for Selected Editions.** (ISBN 0-913196-67-3, hbk.). Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA 15213-3890, U.S.A. Price unknown. 300 pp. 6 b/w figures, 8" × 11".

Carl Linnaeus, the 18th Century grandsire of systematics, saw 186 dissertations prepared under his direction at the University of Uppsala. They represent a trove of information, some of which was undoubtedly prepared by Linnaeus himself. The original dissertations were printed and circulated at the time of their defense, but were later collected and republished in several editions, two of which were edited by Linnaeus under the title *Amoenitates academicae*.

This book indexes all of the formal (i.e., "scientific") names used in the Linnaean dissertations, and notes where each name is found in the original dissertation and in the collected editions. There is a bibliographic catalog of the original dissertations, plus a succinct overview of the several collected editions. A concordance is provided to tie original dissertations to their locations in the collected editions.

Of necessity, the introductory essay is brief, but clear and to the point. The authors use conventional bibliographical styles and the work is easy to navigate. Were I to quibble, I would wish for an explanation of the Lidén numbers, which are used to catalog the dissertations.

The dissertations retain some currency in contemporary biology because many are significant in matters of nomenclatural priority, and because the texts of all represent the thinking and attitudes of a group of capable people who were among the earliest to consider the flora and fauna from a world perspective.

Biologists of every stripe always have been addicted to scribbling, and their products crowd the libraries, often to be slowly forgotten. But, a fact is a fact regardless of when it was observed, and the writings of the past are not merely space-fillers. Those among us who have the skill and facilities to make the great wealth of old information comfortably accessible to the rest of us deserve our thanks and good wishes. May they continue their work.—*Theodore M. Barkley, Botanical Research Institute of Texas.*